

REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated July 1, 2003. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 1-33 were subject to restriction or election requirement.

In so doing, the Examiner stated:

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-27, drawn to providing a plurality of modules including at least one child, one of the modules receiving an input command from a source transparent to the module, deciding which child to pass the input command to, and passing such input command to such child for processing, classified in class 711, subclasses 117 and 114.
- II. Claims 28-33, drawn to a degraded module including a degraded child which is a degraded disk drive, detecting the presence of a new disk drive to replace the degraded disk drive, creating a spanned partition, coupling the spanned partition to the degraded module, and rebuilding the new disk drive by the spanned partition such the new disk drive includes data stored in the degraded disk drive, classified in class 711, subclass 134.

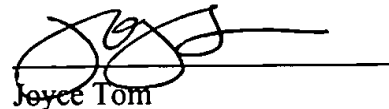
Applicant hereby elects claims 1-27 without prejudice. Claims 28-33 are withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants' attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

July 22, 2003

Date



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